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Message Text

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UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 1290

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, MY
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHICS: DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD, NEW DEPUTY PRIME MINISTE
R

REF: K.L. LUMPUR 1249, K.L. 1252

1. TRANSMITTED HEREWITH CS THE BRIEF OFFICIAL BIO SKETCH, WITH MINOR UPDATING, PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ON DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD WHO ON MAR 6, 1976, WAS NAMED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN TO THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. ABSENT FROM THIS SKETCH, ALTHOUGH REFERRED TO IN LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, IS FACT THAT IN 1964 DR. MAHATHIR WAS EXPELLED FROM THE UMNO PARTY IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DISPUTE WITH THEN PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN OVER HANDLING OFERSACIAL MATTERS. IN EARLY 1972 HE WAS READMITTED TO UMNO.

2. BEGIN TEXT: BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
DPM AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION--

3. DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD WAS APPOINTED AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON SEPT 6, 1974, IN THE FIRST NATIONAL FRONT CABINET UNDER PRIME MINISTER TUN ABDUL RAZAK. ON MAR 5, 1976, HE WAS NAMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BY DATUK HUSSEIN ONN.

4. DR. MAHATHIR WAS BORN IN ALOR SETAR, KEDAH, ON DEC 20, 1925, HE HAD HIS EARLY EDUCATION AT THE MALAY SCHOOL, SEBERANG PERAK, ALOR SETAR AND LATER JOINED

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THE SULTAN ABDUL HAMID COLLEGE, IN ALOR SETAR. IN 1947

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HE JOINED THE K.E. VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE WHICH LATER BECAME THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA IN SINGAPORE AND GRADUATED WITH AN M.B.B.S. DEGREE.

5. IN 1956 DRJY MAHATHIR MARRIED DR. HASMAH BINL MOHAMAD ALI WHO ALSO GRADUATED FROM THE SAME FACULTY. THEY NOW HAVE FIVE CHILDREN -- TWO GIRLS AND THREE BOYS.

6. AFTER COMPLETING HIS RESIDENCY IN 1954, DR. MAHATHIR WAS POSTED AS A MEDICAL OFFICER IN ALTHJWETAR AND LATER IN PERLIS AND PULAU LANGKAWI.

7. IN 1957 HE RESIGNED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE TO OPEN HIS OWN PRIVATE PRACTICE,THE "XXAHA KLINIKZ IN ALOR SETAR, KEDAH.

8. DR. MAHATHIR FIRST BECAME ACTIVE IN POLTICS IN 1945 WHEN HE JOINED VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AMONG WHICH WERE THE KESATUAN MELAYU KEDAH, SEBERKAS, KESATUAN PEMUDA MELAYU KEDAH AND LATER THE UMNO.

9. IN THE 1964 GENERAL ELECTIONS HE WON THE TOTA STAR SELATAN PARLIAMENTARY SEAT AS AN ALLIANCE CANDIDATE BUT HE LOST THE SEAT IN THE SUBSEQUENT GENERAL ELECTIONS IN 1969. DR. MAHATHIR AGAIN CONTESTED FOR THE KUBANG PASU PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AS A NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATE IN 1974 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND WON UNOPPOSED.

10. IN 1973 DR. MAHATHIR WAS APPOINTED AS SENATOR, FROM WHICH POSITION HE RESIGNED BEFORE NOMINATION DAY OF THE 1974 GENERAL ELECTRVNS.

11THROUGHOUT HIS /UNWIC LIFE DR. MAHATHIR HAS SHOWN KEEN INTEREST IN EDUCATION AND HAD FOLLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY. HE WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL IN 1968 AND 1972 HE WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL. HE WAS ALSO APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE UNIVERISTY COURT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA COUNCIL AND IN APRIL 1974 HE WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN COUNCIL.

12. DR. MAHATHIR ALSO HELD MANY IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND BUSINESS FIELDS. HE IS ONE OF THE THREE ELECTED VICE PRESIDENTS OF UMNO AND IS A MEMBER OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN OF ANTI-T.B. KEDAH, PRESIDENT OF KEDAH MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND

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CHAIRMAN OF FOOD INDUSTRIES OF MALAYSIA SDN. BERHAD
(F.I.M.A.). END TEXT.
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